



FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE



Installation of Denyse Thomasos: *just beyond.*

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Cover: Installation view Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins' *ABCD*.
Installation view of Denyse Thomasos' *just beyond*.

> Message from the Minister



As Nova Scotians, we're fortunate to have the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) as a cornerstone of our cultural life. Nationally recognized as a leader in the visual arts, the AGNS is a trusted steward of our artistic heritage.

The arts are essential to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of our province. Nova Scotia's cultural sector contributes more than \$1 billion to our economy each year and supports over 15,000 jobs. A popular destination for both residents and visitors, the AGNS plays an important role in sustaining Nova Scotia's cultural economy.

Through its wide range of programs and events, the AGNS enhances quality of life, promotes self-expression, and fosters a sense of belonging. It helps build inclusive communities that are stronger, healthier, and more vibrant. And it plays a leading role in elevating Nova Scotian artists and celebrating artistic excellence across our province.

Congratulations to the entire AGNS team on another outstanding year. I look forward to what the future holds for this remarkable institution.

The Honourable Dave Ritcey
Minister of Communities, Culture,
Tourism and Heritage

“ (The AGNS) plays a leading role in elevating Nova Scotian artists and celebrating artistic excellence across our province.”



Message from the Board Chair

It was another strong year for the AGNS. Our organizational governance remained robust as we moved forward with major initiatives, including completion of the strategic plan, which will lead the Gallery through the next five years.

The AGNS added key roles to the staffing complement to better equip the Gallery for success as it moves forward with the strategic plan and other exciting initiatives.

Although staff had to deal with infrastructure challenges and closures, they still delivered incredible exhibitions and art programming to Nova Scotians in Halifax and across the province.

I congratulate the AGNS team and the committed volunteers for their incredible work that has made 2024-25 a triumph. Thank you also to members of the Board and Committees for their commitment to the Gallery. Together we will “build” the Gallery for long-term sustainability.



Grant Machum
Board Chair, 2024-25

“I congratulate the AGNS team and the committed volunteers for their incredible work that has made 2024-25 a triumph.”

> Message from the CEO

2024-25 was an exciting year at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. This year our team looked to the future, as we worked collaboratively and carefully to develop our new strategic plan, *Framing the Future*. This important consultative work helped create a path forward with a focused vision. Over the next five years, this plan will help direct the Gallery to become an inclusive, sustainable, and ambitious leader in the visual arts.

“Over the next five years, this (strategic) plan will help direct the Gallery to become an inclusive, sustainable, and ambitious leader in the visual arts.”

Sarah Moore Fillmore at the Patron Preview of *Mitchell Wiebe: VampSites*. | Sarah and Séamus Gallagher at the opening of *OH BABY*.



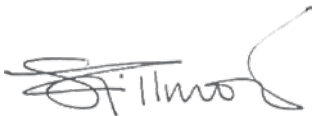
When the AGNS reopened in June after needed infrastructure work, visitors were treated to two incredible exhibitions: *Mitchell Wiebe: VampSites*, developed by Confederation Centre of the Arts, and *Denyse Thomasos: just beyond*, organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Remai Modern.

In the fall, we welcomed contemporary artists Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins for the opening of their exhibition *Three Dimensions*, in collaboration with Contemporary Calgary. This exhibition played an important role in engaging visitors as the AGNS experienced another temporary maintenance closure, this time of the North building.

A particular highlight of the past year was the launch of the new emerging artist platform; a program aimed at giving space and opportunities to an artist at the formative stage of their practice. This initiative launched with the opening of *OH BABY*, which featured new works by local, award-winning artist Séamus Gallagher.

We continued to connect with Nova Scotians through our art education workshops and artist-led programs, reaching nearly 4,000 youth, making an important impact in communities around the province.

I want to thank our wonderful Board of Directors, the incredible staff, and dedicated volunteers for making this year a success. I look forward to our work together in 2025-26 and working towards framing the future for the visual arts in Nova Scotia.



Sarah Moore Fillmore
Chief Executive Officer

Kevin Rice, Pan Wendt (Confederation Centre Art Gallery), Mitchell Wiebe (artist), and Sarah at opening. | Sarah at special event *Voices from Down Home*.





Framing the Future

This year, with input from over 60 community groups and partners, the AGNS embarked on the development of a five-year strategic plan.

Shaping the strategic plan, titled *Framing the Future*, was a collaborative effort involving input from the community, the arts sector, volunteers, staff, leadership, and partners.

This plan is based on the shared vision for the AGNS to become a lively cultural centre that enhances the lives of Nova Scotians and visitors through the visual arts.

Over the next five years, you'll see the AGNS reimagine what it means to be a cultural institution for our local community and the global visual arts landscape. Through bold exhibitions, engaging programs, and immersive experiences we will spark conversations, ignite imaginations, and make art more accessible.

To realize this bold vision, the AGNS will concentrate on three strategic goals, grounded in enhanced curatorial practices, strengthened funding, and improved community and partner relations.

To see the full version
of *Framing the Future*,
visit agns.ca

| Strategic Goals

1 Elevate Nova Scotia
Through the Visual Arts

The AGNS will focus on contemporary art and global conversations from Nova Scotia’s unique perspective, enhancing cultural exchange through transatlantic partnerships.

2 Create a
Compelling Impact

The AGNS will enhance the visitor experience with innovative public offerings, making art more accessible and inclusive. By removing barriers and expanding education, the Gallery will attract a broader audience and enrich Nova Scotia’s cultural sector.

3 Set a Standard for
Sustainable Operations

The AGNS will expand funding sources for long-term stability, build a diverse and engaged team, and foster an inclusive and innovative environment. This approach will ensure financial stability, enhance sustainability, and strengthen the Gallery’s reputation as a leading cultural institution.





2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS

45,383

visitors to the AGNS

58,756

people engaged through
social media

4,051

program participants,
in-gallery and community

3,848

students reached through in-gallery
and school outreach programs

215

works acquired

145

artists on view

24

exhibitions

720

supporters

529,101

website page views



Installation of Séamus Gallagher: OH BABY.

2024-25 EXHIBITIONS

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's exhibition program is woven with the principles of collaboration, engagement, diversity, stewardship, and ongoing support for artists.

This year, the AGNS built partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally, while also focusing on Atlantic Canadian art and artists.





Mitchell Wiebe: VampSites

Halifax-based artist Mitchell Wiebe imported the chaos and theatre of his studio into an art museum in *VampSites*. Wiebe employed a surreal personal lexicon and mythology of colours and textures, motifs, and narratives; filling the space with an array of fantastical animalesque characters. Optical effects coincided with pop culture references

as Wiebe played with the procedures and boundaries of painting, with the ebb and flow of its credibility. The installation responded to the architecture of the Gallery, combining Wiebe's distinctive paintings with documentation of a sprawling residency in a Cold War bunker and a black light gallery.

Visitors frequently found Wiebe in the exhibition throughout its run at the AGNS, animating the exhibition through artmaking, music, or describing his process and works to guests.

Organized and circulated by
Confederation Centre Art Gallery,
curated by Pan Wendt.
Supported by Joanne Hames and
Cox & Palmer

“The Mitchell (Wiebe) Show! So incredibly beautiful and whimsical!”

— HALIFAX GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEACHER



Denyse Thomasos: just beyond

This first-ever career retrospective of the late Trinidadian-Canadian artist, *Denyse Thomasos: just beyond* was a celebration of the painter and her singular voice in modern abstraction. Inquisitive and socially conscious about the systems and institutions around her, Thomasos commonly wove a political thread throughout her practice.

The never-before-seen studio footage and personal journals in this exhibition provided glimpses into the artist's innermost thoughts, her rigorous research practice, and the gradual development of her unique artistic language. Thomasos' skillful use of colour, her confident lines, and challenging narratives were evident in every stage of her brief yet remarkable career.

“Visit highlight was *Sacrifice* by Thomasos.”

— COL. JOHN STEWART ELEMENTARY, CHAPERONE



Installation view of Denyse Thomasos, *Untitled*, 2012.

Exhibitions

2023 Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchases

The 2023 Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchases exhibition included works by 17 Nova Scotian artists whose artworks were chosen by a peer assessment committee of professional Nova Scotian artists through the Art Bank Purchase Program.

The artworks selected through the 2023 program consisted of a range of media, including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, beading, embroidery, and rug hooking.

Léopold L. Foulem: Reshaping Function

Reshaping Function includes four works from the Permanent Collection by internationally renowned Acadian ceramic artist Léopold L. Foulem. Each artwork offers a small yet compelling glimpse into distinct aspects of Foulem's prolific body of work. This exhibition continues to be on view in 2025-26.



LEFT: Installation of Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight: The Quill Sisters.

TOP: Opening for 2023 Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchases. BOTTOM: Installation view of Léopold L. Foulem, *Silhouette 3356*, 2009.

Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence

This Permanent Collection exhibition, the *Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight*, and the *(Tea)chings* space each saw new artists highlighted.

(Tea)chings: Sircle of Sisters

(Tea)chings is a space for artwork created through Indigenous-centered programming by community members of all ages. This year's *(Tea)chings* space showcased quillwork created by 16 members of the Sircle of Sisters program at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, led by artist Cheryl Simon. The group explored Mi'kmaw cultural values, legal protocols, and history embedded in the art form of quillwork while creating pieces of their own.

Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight: The Quill Sisters

This spotlight section of *Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence* celebrates the work being done by Indigenous artists across Mi'kma'ki.

Artist trio The Quill Sisters (Melissa Peter-Paul, Kay Sark, and Cheryl Simon) have collaborated for several years to rekindle the art form of quillwork, while igniting discussions on treaty rights, climate change, sustainability, and reciprocity. Each artist used traditional approaches using birchbark embellishment techniques, while expanding mediums with conceptual connections to this contemporary and historical practice.

"I really liked the ceramics by the Acadian artist, they were beautiful." – STUDENT TOUR FEEDBACK



Exhibitions

Jennifer Marman & Daniel Borins: Three Dimensions

Three Dimensions showcased the multidisciplinary art practice of Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins, including three installations: *Balancing Act*, *THX2020*, and *ABCD*, which combined painting, sculpture, kinetics, interactivity, virtual reality, and video.

Visitors were encouraged to participate and ‘play’ with some of the installations,

exploring themes of authenticity, agency, and the digital age through performativity and interactivity.

The exhibition aimed to disrupt traditional notions of reality—whether authentic or synthetic—and presented dimensions that challenged the viewer’s perception. Marman and Borins prompted contemplation around visual language, mass media, consumerism, and the ways in which images circulate in the information age.

Organized and circulated by
Contemporary Calgary, Calgary, AB.
Supported by AGNS Patron
Supporters and Ubisoft

“Highlights of our visit were the interactive components of Marman and Borins. A++!”

— GAETZ BROOK JUNIOR HIGH, CHAPERONE



Installation view of Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins, *Balancing Act*, 2023.

Exhibitions

Séamus Gallagher: **OH BABY**

OH BABY, a new body of work by emerging artist Séamus Gallagher, combined photo, video, drag, speculative fiction, sculpture, and costuming, inspired by a forest fire in Arizona in 2017 caused by a gender reveal explosion. Gallagher imagined what it might mean to be assigned a forest fire at birth amid a collapsing climate.

Gallagher examined the way human-made technologies and constructs frame our worldviews, and fail us as a result. They work from the belief that various ways of working, histories, narratives, and ideas can—and must—exist alongside one another: the camp and the critical, the past and the future, the natural and the other.

OH BABY kicked off the AGNS' emerging artist program, which will support and foster rising contemporary artists from Atlantic Canada and cumulate into a bi-annual exhibition at the AGNS.

Supported by AGNS Patron Supporters, Jules Chamberlain • NICE MOVES • Red Door Realty, and Benjamin Bridge



LEFT/TOP: Installation of Séamus Gallagher, *OH BABY*.
BOTTOM: Installation of Alex Livingston, *Magnificence*, 2023.

Nova Scotia Spotlight: Alex Livingston

The *Nova Scotia Spotlight* series highlights recent acquisitions to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's Permanent Collection by artists contributing to the province's cultural heritage. This year's Spotlight featured artist Alex Livingston and his work, *Magnificence*.

Mike MacDonald: Touched by the Tears of a Butterfly

During the North Building closure our Multi-Purpose Room featured a dynamic art installation by Mi'kmaw artist Mike MacDonald (1941-2006). The work was a silent video that featured a monarch butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, followed by a montage of butterflies pollinating various flora and fauna.

"You need to come and see this (referring to the five video panels in *OH BABY*), the paintings are talking to us!"

— ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

Permanent Collection

Two group exhibitions and three individual exhibitions from the Permanent Collection were on view throughout the year, including the *Maud Lewis Gallery*, *The Shape of Cities*, *Realism's Reach*, *Carol Wainio*, and *Kent Monkman: Miss Chief's Wet Dream*.





Installation of Denyse Thomasos, *Metropolis*, 2007.

Exhibitions

2023 Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchases

(June 22, 2024 – April 21, 2025)

Collections Spotlight – John Macnab's *CSDC 5-12*

Denyse Thomasos: just beyond

(June 8 – September 8, 2024)

deWitt Gallery Spotlight – Judith Schwarz's *Torch*

Jennifer Marman & Daniel Borins: Three Dimensions

(November 2, 2024 – January 26, 2025)

Kent Monkman – Miss Chief's Wet Dream

(closed December 2, 2024)

Laufer Gallery – Historic European works from the collection

Léopold L. Foulem: Reshaping Function

(opened June 22, 2024)

Maud Lewis Gallery

Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight: Meagan Musseau

(closed September 15, 2024)

Mi'kma'ki Artists' Spotlight: The Quill Sisters

(opened September 28, 2024)

Mitchell Wiebe: VampSites

(June 8 – September 30, 2024)

Nova Scotia Spotlight: Alex Livingston

(opened November 9, 2024)

Nova Scotia Spotlight: Nelson White

(closed November 8, 2024)

Realism's Reach

Recent Exhibitions: Carol Wainio (closed December 2, 2024)

Séamus Gallagher: OH BABY

(February 22 – May 11, 2025)

Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence

(Tea)chings: We'koqma'q Mikmaw School

(closed September 15, 2024)

(Tea)chings: Sircle of Sisters (opened September 28, 2024)

The Ondaatje Collection of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

The Ondaatje Courtyard – John Greer's *Origins*

The Shape of Cities (closed December 2, 2024)

Touched by the Tears of a Butterfly

(October 1, 2024 – March 15, 2025)



Participants in school tour.

2024-25 PROGRAMS

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia delivered a range of programs inviting people of diverse backgrounds, ages, and abilities to engage with art. The Permanent Collection and special exhibitions provided the framework for these programs. This year, the AGNS hosted hands-on activities, lecture-style and panel artist talks, pop-up artmaking, and collaborative partner programs to bring art to people around the province.





| Make Day!

The Make Day program brought together visitors of all ages for hands-on artmaking activities led by AGNS staff, artists, and art educators. During monthly sessions, this program offered a range of techniques including block printing, papermaking, and clay. This year, Make Days saw record-breaking attendance!

Highlights included:

Creating glow-in-the-dark wearable paper creations and collages, led by Sherry Lynn Jollymore, inspired by the neon colours and imaginative paintings in *VampSites*.

Exploring a family-friendly block-printmaking experience while learning about local plants and binding mini-journals.

Making personalized buttons, fridge magnets, and cut-out vinyl stickers, led by artists P. Doak and Brigitta Zhao.

Papermaking with native wildflower seeds added in, to plant into a butterfly garden come spring, inspired by the work *Touched By The Tears of a Butterfly* by artist Mike MacDonald (1941-2006).

Creating felt portraits inspired by African Heritage Month and the theme of legacy, stories, and identity.

Creating clay creations led by artist Meggie Richards.

516

participants in drop-in artmaking programs



This year, Creative Minds invited artists and community members to respond to exhibitions and art on view at the AGNS. We also partnered with other institutions to host artist talks around the province.

Materiality and Indigenous Sovereignty

Lawyer and artist Cheryl Simon shared her approach to Indigenous material culture through her perspective as a Mi'kmaw e'pit [woman], and how traditional Mi'kmaw art forms like porcupine quillwork and basket-making relate to Indigenous and collective rights, including cultural material harvesting.

Jennifer Marman & Daniel Borins – Another Dimension

Artists Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins offered a compelling presentation which highlighted the multi-faceted dimensions of their collective art practice in connection with their exhibition *Three Dimensions*.

David Clark & Robin Metcalfe Discuss Séamus Gallagher: OH BABY

Media arts professor David Clark and Queer activist Robin Metcalfe guided visitors through the art and practice of Séamus Gallagher. This conversation discussed Gallagher's varied use of image making techniques, the role of drag and camp in their work, and representations of natural and artificial worlds amid the climate crisis.

Sameer Farooq

Artist Sameer Farooq shared ideas about his practice over the past decade including building imaginary museums with the public, the role of meditation/contemplative practice in his work, and his recent foodways research, specifically on the importance of building tandoor ovens and working with flatbread libraries as a lens on migration. Presented in partnership with the Outdoor School and Inverness County Centre for the Arts.

Voices from Down Home: Dialogues on Community Connections in Black Canadian Art

In celebration of African Heritage Month, this talk featured several artists from the exhibition, *Down Home*, at the Dalhousie Art Gallery curated by AGNS' Fabiyino Germain-Bajowa. These artists shared layered stories that illuminate the strength and vibrancy of African Nova Scotian and Black Canadian life and identity. Presented in partnership with Dalhousie Art Gallery, Dalhousie African Nova Scotian Strategy Advisory Council, and Halifax Public Libraries.

739

artist talks
attendees



Book Launch for Halifax Art and Artists with Art Canada Institute

This event celebrated stories of Halifax's creators, from craftspeople and portrait painters to filmmakers and multidisciplinary makers. The event included a panel discussion with the book's author Ray Cronin, artist Alan Syliboy, Ann Kitz (daughter of artist Alex Colville), and Sarah Moore Fillmore, CEO, AGNS. Organized by the Art Canada Institute, in partnership with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and Halifax Public Libraries.

G.L.A.M Bats

The Gallery was rocking during a performance by G.L.A.M. Bats, featuring artists Mitchell Wiebe, Graeme Patterson, and several collaborators including Craig Leonard.

Freedom Narratives: Emancipation Day Art Celebration

This celebratory event featured a dynamic showcase of artists and writers, each reflecting on the rich cultural heritage and resilient spirit of the African Nova Scotian community and beyond, in recognition of Emancipation Day. In partnership with the Dalhousie Art Gallery, Dalhousie University Office of African Nova Scotian Engagement and the Office of Equity and Inclusion, and Halifax Public Libraries.

Drop-in with the Youth Project

2SLGBTQIA+ youth participated in several drop-in artmaking and social sessions. In partnership with the Youth Project.

Sarah Maloney Tour and Book Launch at MSVU

The AGNS celebrated the launch of the exhibition catalogue for *Sarah Maloney's Pleasure Ground: A Feminist Take on the Natural World*, published by the AGNS, Art Windsor Essex, and Goose Lane Editions, with a tour of the exhibition by the artist at the MSVU Art Gallery.



G.L.A.M. Bats performance held in conjunction with Mitchell Wiebe's *VampSites* exhibition.



Nocturne

In partnership with Nocturne, the AGNS presented the Curator Panel Presentation in the days leading up to the official Nocturne event, which shared insights from the 2024 curator, Shuvanjan Karmaker, and anchor project artists. Artist Cheryl L'Hirondelle also did an artist talk and invited attendees to participate in the activation of *yahkāskwan mīhkiwap* (*Light Tipi*).

During the night of Nocturne, 800 visitors were encouraged to create their own microcosm themed art and experience the *2023 Nova Scotia Art Bank Purchases* exhibition and the Maud Lewis Gallery.

“Expanding access to the arts aligns with our purpose, to *Boldly Grow the Good* in business and life, and helps drive progress for the communities we serve.”

—KARLA MCCARTHY, HEAD OF CORPORATE FINANCE, ATLANTIC, BMO

Pride Art Jam! with the Youth Project

In celebration of Pride, the AGNS and the Youth Project hosted Pride Art Jam! Participants explored printmaking, drawing, painting, and created art that celebrated 2SLGBTQIA+ joy and histories.

French Tours

In partnership with Alliance Française Halifax, the AGNS hosted guided tours in French of *Mitchell Wiebe: VampSites*, *Denyse Thomasos: just beyond*, and *Jennifer Marman & Daniel Borins: Three Dimensions*.

BMO Free Access Thursday Nights

The AGNS welcomed guests for free on Thursday Nights thanks to generous support from BMO Financial Group. Since 2021, BMO has enabled over 23,000 visitors to enjoy the AGNS on Free Access Thursday Nights and has renewed this commitment through to 2027.

Free Access Thursday Nights
is presented by:



Insite Out

Artist educator Agne Kubiliute led weekly morning drop-in artmaking throughout the summer in our *Insite Out* space, inspired by the exhibition *VampSites*. Participants added their mark to a large collaborative drawing, exploring a variety of materials that featured colourful, neon whimsical creatures.

Curators' Tour

In celebration of new summer exhibitions and the reopening of the AGNS after a temporary closure, the AGNS was delighted to host a tour with Pan Wendt, curator of *Mitchell Wiebe: VampSites* and Renée van der Avoird, Sally Frater, and Michelle Jacques, co-curators of *Denyse Thomasos: just beyond*.



The AGNS welcomed participants in a series of adult workshops, which included specialized artmaking and painting techniques for people of all skill sets.

Weaving

Textile artist Linnet Finley led participants through the steps to build their own loom and taught the group basic weaving techniques to make their own unique woven artwork.

Rug Hooking

Artist Hanna Eidson introduced participants to the history and techniques of rug hooking and everyone created their own small rug.

Linocut Cards

Artist Tayla Paul returned for a popular printmaking workshop where participants carved and printed their own set of cards using the linocut technique.

(Tea)chings Workshop with Cheryl Simon

Artist Cheryl Simon shared her skills and knowledge about porcupine quillwork with 16 members of the Circle of Sisters program at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. The group explored Mi'kmaw cultural values, legal protocols, and history embedded in the art form while creating pieces of their own. Their work was installed in the *(Tea)chings* section of the exhibition *Ta'n a'sikatikl sipu'l | Confluence* at the Gallery, a space that celebrates artwork by Indigenous community members.

Painting & Pints

Artist Meggie Richards led these ever-popular adult painting workshops. Participants loved the landscape paintings of LeRoy J. Zwicker and Robert Annand from the Permanent Collection, as well as classic and colourful Maud Lewis works.

“Loved, loved this course, the class size was just right and the teacher was so nice and helpful. I’m going to try another course next month. Would highly recommend this course even if you are not a crafter already.” – WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

| Key Frames

Our screening series invited attendees to experience films which aimed to offer new ways of thinking about artworks on view at the AGNS. The Key Frames series included:

Women of this Land

Episodes that featured and celebrated two strikingly impactful Indigenous women, storyteller shalan joudry (L'nu/Mi'kmaw, Bear River First Nation, NS) and Elder Imelda Perley Opolahsomuwehs (Wolastoqi, Tobique First Nation, NB). In partnership with the Prismatic Arts Festival.

A Love Letter to Léopold L. Foulem

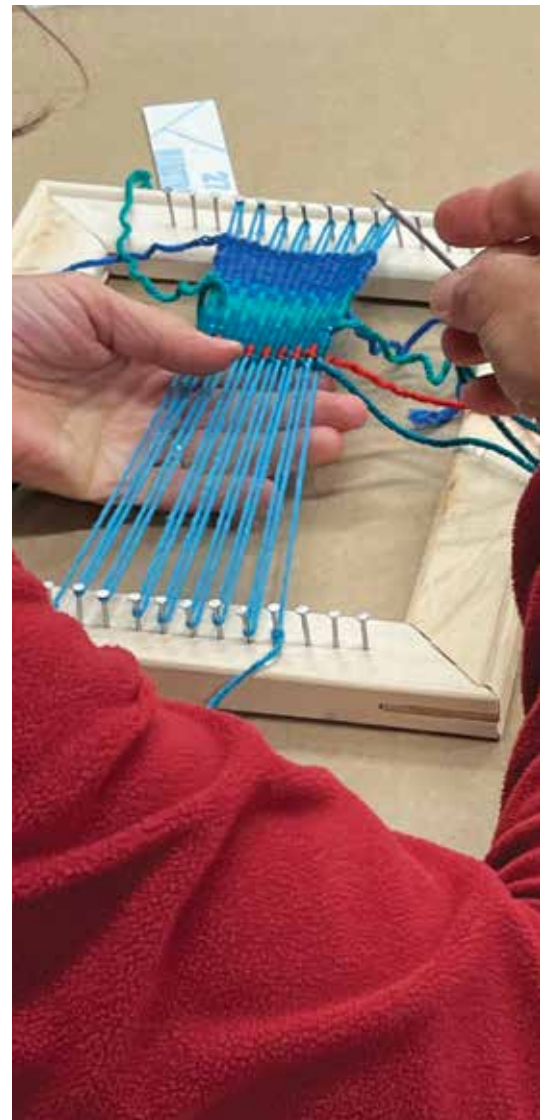
In celebration of Acadian ceramicist and folk artist Léopold L. Foulem, this film featured an intimate, cinematic, and heartfelt ode to his dazzling life and career. Directed by Renée Blanchar. Ça Tourne Productions Ltée.

Kiki

In recognition of African Heritage Month, the AGNS presented Kiki, a 2016 documentary film that explored the lives of LGBTQ+ youth-of-colour in New York City's underground Ballroom scene. Directed by Sara Jordenö and produced by IFC Films.

241

adult workshop
participants



ArtReach & ArtsSmarts

The ArtReach and ArtsSmarts programs provide engaging opportunities for artists to work with teachers and students, promoting and celebrating access to art across the province. These programs develop artmaking skills, support professional development for teachers, foster collaboration and inclusion among students and communities, and build understanding and appreciation of the arts. With the support of regional coordinators Adam Graham in Yarmouth, and Elizabeth Lalonde in Louisbourg, the AGNS hosted 196 sessions of ArtsSmarts and ArtReach and engaged more than 2,259 students in formative experiences with artists.

School Visits

School tours are designed to engage students from pre-primary to post-secondary level learners during their visit to the Gallery. With opportunities to engage with art materials during their tour, students also participate in hands-on artmaking that encourages reflection and additional learning to complement their visit.

Volunteer Guide Program

The AGNS volunteer guide program warmly embraces art enthusiasts whose dedication and commitment to leading tours and engaging with visitors through our *Ask Me* program makes a trip to the AGNS inspiring and memorable. Hundreds of hours are spent annually by AGNS volunteers preparing for tours through research, learning, training, and resource gathering to support meaningful engagement and dialogue with visitors of all ages.

ArtsSmarts/ArtReach is supported by:



The School Visit Program is supported by P. Diane Swanzey



School visit participants.

Autism Arts – Halifax and Yarmouth

Developed in 2006 in collaboration with Autism Nova Scotia, Autism Arts is a weekly art class for children, youth, and young adults. Art can be an effective and inspiring tool for self-expression, especially for those with unique needs. Classes are designed to create opportunities for those on the autism spectrum by presenting a variety of meaningful experiences through art. This year, classes took place weekly in Halifax, led by artist Agne Kubiliute, and in Yarmouth at YACRO, led by artist Jay LeBlanc, with the help of dedicated volunteers.

Artful Afternoon

Since 2014, the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia and the AGNS have been offering Artful Afternoon, a program designed to engage people living with dementia and their partners in care through the power of art. This year, participants had the pleasure of working with artist-facilitator Sarah Mosher, who led them through meaningful and inspiring experiences including exhibition visits and hands-on activities, both in-person and virtually.

Summer Camps

Inspired by a variety of themes, our week-long camps engaged campers in hands-on artistic experiences all summer.

Autism Arts is presented in partnership with:



Artful Afternoon is supported by:



R. Howard Webster Foundation
Fondation R. Howard Webster

THE WINDSOR FOUNDATION

March Break

This March Break happened in and out of the Gallery. The AGNS popped up at the Halifax North Library and Halifax Shopping Centre to offer accessible drop-in artmaking opportunities. Plus, our March Break Art Camps allowed campers aged 5-12 to get creative screen-printing t-shirts, building papier mâché sculptures, and more, all led by local practicing artists.

Memory Cafe

The AGNS has partnered with Memory Café NS to enhance the experience for individuals living with dementia, their care partners, and families. In the inaugural year of this collaboration, AGNS provided reproductions of Maud Lewis works from the Permanent Collection, enriching sessions and making the art more accessible to participants.

This year, the program hosted five sessions over the winter and spring at 16 sites across the province and reached over 250 participants.

“Art appreciation transcends memory, offering an inclusive experience for all participants.”

— MEMORY CAFE PARTICIPANT





Corporate partner tour of Maud Lewis Gallery.

2024-25 SUPPORTERS

The generosity of our supporters strengthens our work to expand access to the arts and nurture a cultural landscape that benefits all Nova Scotians. Thank you for helping us shape a vibrant future where artistic experiences spark dialogue, inspire possibility, and bring communities closer.



The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia gratefully acknowledges our community of supporters for contributions made between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025.

Government

Arts Nova Scotia
Canada Council for the Arts
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Province of Nova Scotia
Young Canada Works

Corporate and Foundation Partners

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Names in **bold** indicate 10+ consecutive years of giving.

Every effort is made to ensure proper recognition of each supporter.
Contact donations@agns.ca regarding any omissions.

Supporters

A perfect pairing: Benjamin Bridge and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Benjamin Bridge have partnered with the AGNS, blending their passion for terroir-driven winemaking with our dedication to artistic expression. We are excited to work together to find new and creative ways to elevate art and artists in Nova Scotia and across Mi'kma'ki.

“Our partnership with the AGNS came from a shared vision to shine a spotlight on Nova Scotia, and shared values grounded in sustainability, equitability, artistry, and creating extraordinary experiences. This is a unique collaboration with much more to come.”

— Keltie MacNeill, Director of Sustainability & Community Engagement

Exhibition support is on the rise thanks to our dedicated donors

“I’m thrilled to support the AGNS’ emerging artist program in 2024-25 with this standout exhibition featuring the work of Séamus Gallagher. This dynamic new platform fosters artists early in their career, and it’s also a front-row seat to the future of contemporary art, bringing AGNS visitors leading-edge work straight from the artist’s studio.” — Jules Chamberlain, Nice Moves | Red Door Realty

Sarah Moore Fillmore and BMO's Karla McCarthy. | Ubisoft Halifax's Bethan Sayer, Selena Landon, and Jordon Robb attend the fall Patron Preview.



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Writers in the Schools

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Jean and Robbie Shaw attend the fall Patron Preview. | Guests from BMO engage with *Balancing Act* at a special viewing.





Megan Kyak-Monteith, *Kids Showing off their Bike Tricks* (detail), 2022. Acrylic on canvas. 152.5 x 152.5 cm. Purchased with support from the Estate of Robert P Radchuck, who was a long-term supporter, Board Member, and Board Chair; AGNS Honorary Governors; and Susan Crocker, 2025 2025.9

2024-25 ACQUISITIONS

This year, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia was thrilled to acquire 215 artworks by 63 artists. The AGNS continues to work on expanding and further diversifying the provincial collection to broaden our narrative, fortify the work of artists within the region, and better reflect the AGNS vision.





**Honorary Governors
champion a significant
new acquisition**

A generous gift from the estate of former AGNS Chair and Honorary Governor Robert Radchuck opened the door to an extraordinary opportunity—the acquisition of *Kids Showing off Their Bike Tricks* by recent NSCAD graduate and Inuit artist Megan Kyak-Monteith. Inspired by this meaningful contribution, AGNS Honorary Governors came together to raise matching funds, ensuring this remarkable painting became a part of our Permanent Collection. This milestone marks only the third painting by an Inuit artist to join the AGNS’ collection and will enrich our cultural legacy for generations to come.



Norval Morrisseau

Shaman Conjuring Speech, 1979

Serigraph on paper, 153/350, 61.0 x 45.8 cm

Gift of Merv Russell, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2024, with assistance from the Dr. S.T. Laufer and Mrs. Irmgard Laufer Endowment

2024.11



Unknown (after John Cunningham)

An Encampment of Mi'kmaq, early 19th century

Oil on canvas, 33.2 x 44.9 cm

Gift of Sir Christopher Ondaatje, Bermuda, 2024

2024.3



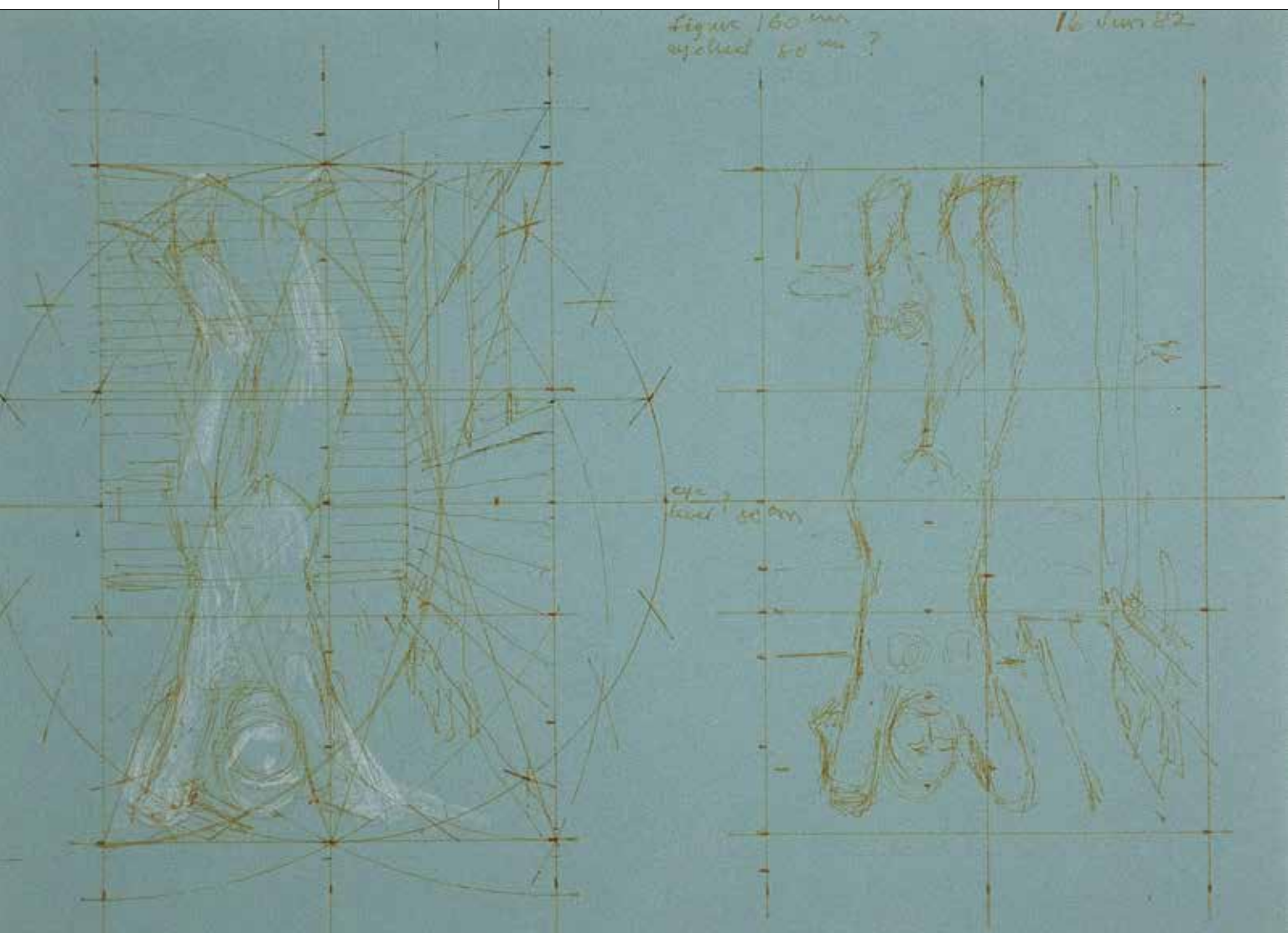
Cecil Day

Underfoot: Beach Peas and Plantain, 2019

Linocut on paper, 1/5, 58.0 x 78.5 cm S.E.M.

Gift of Edward Porter, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, 2025

2025.8



Alex Colville

Study for Headstand: 16 June 1982, 1982

Ink and crayon on blue laid paper

22.7 x 30.5 cm

Purchased with funds provided by
Fred and Elizabeth Fountain, Halifax,
Nova Scotia, 2025

2025.2



Tom Forrestall
Forest Stream, c 1980s
Egg tempera on Masonite
37.7 cm diameter
Bequest of Margaret and Ian Hill,
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, 2024
2024.35



Elizabeth Styring Nutt
Purcell's Ferry, 1929
Oil on canvas, 40.5 x 61.0 cm
The John and Norma Oyler
Collection. Gift of John Oyler,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2025
NTL2024.60



Installation view Mitchell Wiebe: VampSites.



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| as of March 31, 2025